

***Congressman
J. Randy Forbes***
Fourth District of Virginia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forbes secures \$750,000 in federal funding for Suffolk
House passes 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Washington, D.C. – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) secured **\$750,000** in federal funding as part of FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Act for 2004 for the following projects:

- Enhanced law enforcement technology
- Suffolk Workforce Development Center study
- Suffolk Bike Trails
- Great Dismal Swamp Visitors Center

The Suffolk Police Department would receive **\$200,000** for law enforcement equipment to help enhance public safety within the city.

"The money for computer terminals and cameras in our squad cars will be a big help for our department," says Suffolk Police Chief William A. Freeman. "Not only will the computers help our police officers perform their jobs more efficiently, the cameras will provide a visual record for us and for the citizens of the City of Suffolk. We thank Congressman Forbes for working hard to secure the funds that will help keep our community safe."

Forbes secured funding for several important community projects as well:

The **Suffolk Workforce Development Center** is a partnership between the City of Suffolk and Paul D. Camp Community College. The federal funding in the amount of **\$250,000** will be used to conduct a feasibility study to address key issues prior to the establishment of the projected 40,000 square foot facility, and will ensure that needs of employers in the region are met. The facility will provide a state of the art training environment with remote site two-way video communication.

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The City of Suffolk would receive **\$150,000** to provide construction funds for their portion of a **multi-city bike trail**, connecting the cities of Suffolk, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake. These trails, part of City of Suffolk's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, seek to establish unity among parks, recreation, cultural, and historic facilities in the city, according to Forbes.

The **Great Dismal Swamp** is one of the largest remaining wooded peat bogs in North America. Because of its proximity to a major population growth center, and because of its undeveloped state, the swamp is of value as a recreational resource. Demands on the swamp for both educational and recreational purposes are expected to increase as the megalopolis expands. In the Omnibus bill, the City of Suffolk would receive **\$150,000** to start the development of a state-of-the-art interpretative center to be located on city-owned property in its historic district and in proximity to a \$21 million hotel/conference center currently under development.

"Funding for these projects is wonderful news for the City of Suffolk, and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia," Forbes said. "We are very excited to receive this funding during the tough times we are in as a nation, and also amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth."

On behalf of the City of Suffolk, Forbes requested funding for these projects from the House Appropriations Committee earlier this year. The Omnibus Appropriations bill now goes before the Senate, and then to the President to be signed into law.

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